## DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY



Alpha Company, 1<sup>ST</sup> Battalion, 19<sup>TH</sup> Infantry Regiment 8775 Albanese Drive Fort Benning, Georgia 31905-4925

10 February 2017

## Dear Family Member:

Your Soldier recently reported to the 198th Infantry Training Brigade at Fort Benning, Georgia to begin training to be a United States Army Infantryman. We are very proud of your Soldier's decision to join this honorable and important profession of arms. The decision to join the Army is a significant one, undoubtedly influenced by the pride and patriotism that you have instilled.

As your Soldier's Company Commander, I would like to welcome you to Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment and to the Army family. Your Soldier has been assigned to Alpha Company for Initial Entry Training (IET). The Company Cadre takes pride in caring for and training these outstanding young patriots, building them into Infantry Soldiers. Our Drill Sergeants are specially selected, highly trained, and proud of their mission. They teach, train, and assess your Soldier throughout the cycle, and assist in every manner to help your Soldier graduate. The Drill Sergeants will instill in your Soldier self-discipline, physical tenacity, mental toughness, and the tactical skills required of an Infantryman. The following letter provides important information about communication with your Soldier, emergencies, family day, and graduation.

**Mail:** We deliver mail nightly throughout 14 weeks of training. Mail typically takes two days longer to complete processing, but we will make sure your Soldier receives your letters. Please do not send packages containing the items listed on the contraband enclosure to this letter. Soldiers are encouraged to write letters home throughout their training. Due to the rigors of training, your words from home serve as a great source of comfort and motivation. If you have concerns or issues, I encourage you to contact me. You can write to your Soldier at the following address:

Last Name, First Name, Roster Number \_\_\_\_\_ Alpha Company, 1-19th IN 8775 Albanese Drive Fort Benning, GA 31905

In addition, please write your Soldier's roster number on the back of the envelope and highlight the number in the soldier's platoon color as this will help us to sort the mail efficiently. The platoon colors are: 1<sup>st</sup> – yellow, 2<sup>nd</sup> – blue, 3<sup>rd</sup> – green, 4<sup>th</sup> – red. Please Note: The first number in the roster number represents the Platoon of your Soldier.

**Emergency Contact:** In the case of a serious emergency (i.e., death in the family, serious illness, etc.) contact your local American Red Cross to ensure that the message will be sent through the proper channels. You may contact me at (706) 544-9163 or the

Battalion Staff Duty at (706) 544-9253. A cadre member will assist you and notify your Soldier through his Chain of Command. It is imperative that all emergency notifications are validated and delivered through the American Red Cross.

Family Day Pass: The Family Day Pass occurs from 15-16 APRIL 2017 at the end of Phase III (Blue Phase) of training. This break represents the completion of IET, before your soldier resumes specific advanced Infantry training, immediately following the Family Day weekend. An orientation briefing for families and guests occurs at 8:00 a.m. at the Battalion Classroom located at \*\* (Bldg. 3240) 8775 Albanese Drive. All Soldiers will concurrently receive a weekend safety briefing in the company training area. At the completion of both briefings, Soldiers will be released to their family to spend the time they have on pass in the greater Columbus, Georgia area. Soldiers will be released on pass at 8:00 a.m. on the mornings of 15 and 16 April. Soldiers will return to the Company no later than 7:00 p.m. on the nights of 15 and 16 April. Soldiers shall continue to adhere to the rules of IET, including restrictions from alcohol, tobacco, drug use, automotive driving, caffeinated items and other contraband. Soldiers shall not be allowed to bring any such items back into the training area at the conclusion of the pass weekend. Throughout the pass, Soldiers must remain in military uniform and observe all military customs, courtesies and discipline. You may enjoy this time to have dinner with your Soldier, stay off post at any local hotel, and spend time getting reacquainted with your Soldier. Please remain in the Columbus, Georgia or Phenix City, Alabama area (within a 25 mile radius). \*\*\* Families are welcome to visit their Soldier for this mid-cycle pass. Those Soldiers who do not have any visitors are still allowed to take the pass with other Soldiers' families or with groups of other Soldiers but will be required to return to the company area each night. The mid-cycle pass is a privilege that can be pulled from a Soldier based on substandard performance or acts of indiscipline. Please ensure your Soldier is authorized to go on pass before making your own travel arrangements to visit during this pass. All Soldiers must return from pass each day no later than the times indicated above.

<u>Turning Blue Ceremony:</u> During the Turning Blue ceremony your Soldier will receive the Infantry Blue Cord, signifying completion of all requirements to earn the title of U.S. Army Infantryman – joining the ranks of the strongest, best equipped and most highly trained Soldiers in the world. The 1-19th Infantry Battalion Commander conducts an orientation briefing for families and guests on 18 May at 8:00 a.m. in the Battalion Classroom located at \*\* (Bldg. 3240) 8775 Albanese Drive. After the briefing, all guests will be directed to Pomeroy Field for the Turning Blue Ceremony at 9:30 a.m. All Soldiers graduating will be released on pass with their family members following the ceremony. However, they must return from pass no later than 7:00 p.m. that evening. Please follow Facebook for updates to briefings and ceremony timeline.

**Graduation:** Graduation occurs on **19 May** outside the **National Infantry Museum** (**NIM**). The ceremony begins promptly at **9:00 a.m.** Therefore, I recommend you arrive at least an hour early to allow time for parking and finding a seat. Upon completion of

the ceremony, Soldiers will be released to travel to their follow-on assignments. For more information about graduation and the National Infantry Museum, visit their website at www.nationalinfantrymuseum.com. Click on "Plan Your Visit" and then "Graduations."

Please remember that only the Soldiers who meet all requirements will graduate. Most Soldiers complete the training on time, but some do not. If a Soldier fails to pass a mandatory event or is injured, he or she may be recycled to another company to complete the missed training. We encourage your Soldier to keep you informed throughout the cycle about their status in training.

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) office can assist the Family and friends of graduating Soldiers in referring them to local hotels and car rental agencies. You can visit their website at www.benningmwr.com. On-post accommodations are limited and on a first-come, first-served basis so you must call ahead to check availability: (706) 689-0067. MWR also offers the opportunity to stay at the Uchee Creek Recreation area. Uchee Creek provides individual cabins that are completely furnished, including a kitchen, for about the same price as a hotel room. Uchee Creek can be reached at (706) 545-4053 (details are also available on the MWR website). I've enclosed a map of Sand Hill to aid with navigation, and I also recommend the following helpful websites:

www.benningmwr.com/maps.php (Click on "Sand Hill" for a map of the area) www.benningmwr.com (Information on Ft. Benning facilities and services) www.visitcolumbusga.com (Info for the local area)

www.benning.army.mil/infantry/198th/ (Information on training – check out the OSUT 14 Week Journey)

Should you have any serious concerns or need information, assurance or advice about your Soldier, please contact me at (706) 544-9163. Also the best way to contact me is through email. You can Email me at <a href="mailto:seth.j.davis8.mil@mail.mil">seth.j.davis8.mil@mail.mil</a>. I will return your email and phone call as promptly as possible.

<u>Facebook.</u> Alpha Company has a Facebook page that is designed to keep you informed about training and events that occur within the company. To access the page, use Facebook's "Search Groups" function to search for Alpha 1/19 IN. The link is <a href="https://www.facebook.com">https://www.facebook.com</a> and search for Alpha Class **7025**. You may also use the Brigade Facebook Quick Response Code in the enclosure to access the 198<sup>th</sup> Brigade Facebook page directly from any smartphone. Upon your request to join the group (Class **7025**), our Company Facebook Page Manager, 1LT Fields will approve you. Once you have become a group member, you will be able to view photos and descriptions of training and events. Additionally, the Company First Sergeant and I will periodically post entries on the page designed to give you more information and insight into the training process. You should not use the Facebook page to voice

personal issues or concerns. Please message the Facebook Page Manager those issues or concerns, and I will be personally alerted if necessary.

Again, thank you for the years of effort that you have invested in your Soldier. I assure you that we will train, care for and give your Soldier every opportunity to become a US Army Infantryman. We look forward to meeting you on Family Day or at Graduation.

Sincerely,

SETH ปี ์ DAVIS Captain, U.S. Army Commanding

## Enclosures:

- -198th Brigade face book Page
- -Events and Contraband
- -Sandhill Area Map

Enclosure: 198<sup>th</sup> Brigade Facebook Page Quick Response Code



\*\*GPS: 9075 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division Road

## <u>Listed below are some key events to mark on your calendar:</u>

MID-CYCLE PASS			
Event	Date	Time	Location
Family Orientation /Soldiers' Safety Briefing	15 April 2017	8:00 a.m.	1-19 IN Classroom
Mid-Cycle Pass	15 April 2017	8:00 a.m.	Columbus, GA
Soldiers return from pass	15 April 2017	7:00 p.m	Company Area
Soldiers released on pass	16 April 2017	7:00 a.m.	Columbus, GA
Soldiers return from pass	16 April 2017	7:00 p.m	Company Area
GRADUATION ACTIVITIES			
Event	Date	Time	Location
Battalion Commander Family Briefing	18 May 2017	8:00 a.m.	1-19 IN Classroom
Turning Blue Ceremony	18 May 2017	9:30 a.m.	Pomeroy Field
Soldiers Return from Pass	19 May 2017	7:00 p.m.	Company Area
Graduation Ceremony	19 May 2017	9:00 a.m.	National Infantry Museum

<u>Please do not send packages containing any of the items listed below.</u> Initial Entry Training Soldiers are not authorized to have them.

- Any type of food items
- Civilian reading material (except for religious text, i.e. Holy Bible, Book of Mormon, the Koran, etc.)
- Firearms and/or knives and razors
- Civilian clothing
- Medication of any type (prescription or over the counter)
- · Cameras, video or audio tapes or CDs
- Stuffed animals and/or dolls
- Plants (live or artificial)
- Liquids of any sort
- Cash (in excess of \$80.00)
- Any type of tobacco products or nicotine patches and/or gum
- Any caffeine products
- Any type of pornographic materials to include pictures, photographs, post cards, magazines, etc.